

DAILY BULLETIN

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BUSH LIFTS TRADE, TRANSPORTATION SANCTIONS ON LIBYA

Executive order rescinds 18-year state of emergency

President Bush has lifted trade, commercial and travel sanctions on Libya with an executive order declaring an end to the national emergency declared by former president Ronald Reagan in January 1986.

The executive order, dated September 20 and set to take effect September 21, states that Libya's commitments and actions to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) class missiles have significantly altered the potential threat to U.S. national security that the 1986 executive order sought to address.

"The progress in US-Libyan relations reflects the cooperation and support exhibited by Libyan officials and experts over the last nine months. As a result, concerns over weapons of mass destruction no longer pose a barrier to the normalization of U.S.-Libyan relations," according to a White House press statement.

The press statement documents numerous measures taken by the Libyan government to rid itself of WMD, including the destruction of munitions, the conversion of production facilities, the opening of facilities to international inspections and the removal of highly enriched uranium for its research reactor. Libya also has signed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocol and agreed to stop all military trade with countries of proliferation concern.

The executive order ends the need for U.S. businesses to seek special licenses for trade with Libya and paves the way for the resumption of direct air service between the two countries. The order also lifts sanctions on the importation of refined Libyan petroleum products into the United States.

In addition, the order allows U.S. government agencies to promote U.S. investment in Libya and unblocks Libyan assets that had been frozen under the 1986 executive order.

In a message to Congress, Bush clarified that this order does not eliminate sanctions on Libya resulting from Libya's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism. In particular, the White House press statement noted the administration's concerns regarding allegations of Libyan involvement in an assassination plot against Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

"We welcome Libya's formal renunciation of terrorism and Libyan support in the global war against terrorism, but we must establish confidence that Libya has made a strategic decision that is being carried out in practice by all Libyan agencies and officials," the statement said.

As a consequence of this executive order, the administration expects Libya to move ahead with the payment of more than \$1 billion in compensation to families of the victims of Pan Am flight 103. Libya has accepted responsibility for the bombing of that airplane, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people.

The press statement also said that the Bush administration would seek to work with Libya in the areas of education, health care, scientific training, and political and economic reform. According to the statement, "The United States supports Libya's efforts to reap the benefits of engagement, including prosperity and security for its citizens."

U.S. TEAM TO HELP WEST AFRICA IMPROVE ITS COTTON INDUSTRY

Partnership aims to boost industry's efficiency, USDA head says

The United States will send a team of public- and private-sector experts to West Africa to assess that region's cotton industry and suggest improvements to production, processing and logistics systems so the region can become more efficient and competitive, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman says.

The effort will result in what is expected to be a model for cooperation in agriculture throughout Africa, Veneman said.

Addressing a conference on Africa in Miami September 16, Veneman said the United States also is backing an agricultural technology conference to be held in Mali later in 2004. The Mali conference would be the latest in a string of U.S.-sponsored efforts to help countries in Africa gain access to information about agricultural science and technology that could increase production.

In addition, the United States plans to help West Africa create a regional center for biotechnology, Veneman said. Toward that goal, the United States will provide technical assistance, training and cooperative research and exchanges to speed up the region's adoption of biotechnology, she said.

The secretary noted that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently said that agricultural biotechnology "plays a critical role in improving food security for developing countries."

Other technologies that can improve food production already are being used in Africa, Veneman said. She pointed to technology applications such as satellites to monitor water levels in lakes and reservoirs, and computer systems and news broadcasts in rural areas to help small farmers find current market information. Other technologies can help protect the environment by reducing the need for chemicals on growing crops and improve water management and irrigation.

Veneman commended the 53 members of the Africa Union for agreeing to devote at least 10 percent of their national incomes to programs for adopting technologies that can improve agricultural production and rural development.

ENVOYS FROM G8, BROADER MIDEAST DISCUSS REFORMS IN NEW YORK

New York meeting follows up on G8 summit initiative at Sea Island

More than 20 representatives from the industrialized G8 countries and predominantly Muslim nations plan to meet in New York September 23-24 to discuss President Bush's reform proposals for the broader Middle East and North Africa.

The president launched his program, called the "Partnership for Progress and a Common Future with the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa," at the G8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia, in June.

Following is a fact sheet released by the State Department September 20 outlining the background and agenda for the New York meeting:

U.S. Department of State Bureaus of
Near Eastern Affairs, South Asian Affairs
European Affairs and Economic Affairs
September 17, 2004

Preparatory Meetings of the Forum for the Future
Meetings to be held in New York
September 23-24, 2004

More than 20 G-8 and BMENA Foreign Ministers and other representatives will meet in New York September 23-24 to attend preparatory meetings for the Forum for the Future. The Forum for the Future is the centerpiece of the "Partnership for Progress and a Common Future with the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa" launched by President Bush and the other G-8 leaders at their Sea Island Summit in June 2004. This meeting will be followed on October 1 by a meeting of G-8/BMENA Finance Ministers in Washington.

Governments, civil society, business leaders and citizens throughout the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) are voicing support for reforms. These calls are embodied in recent declarations such as the Tunis Declaration issued at the 17th session of the Arab League Summit on May 22-23, the "Platform for Democratic Governance in the Islamic World" issued by the Congress of Democrats from the Islamic World in Istanbul on April 14, 2004, the Alexandria Statement "Issues of Reform in the Arab World," and the statement of Arab business leaders made in Aqaba in December 2003.

Background: The G-8 countries responded to the calls for reform from the BMENA region at their Sea Island Summit in Georgia on June 9, 2004. In announcing the BMENA partnership and a Plan of Support for Reform, President Bush stated, "the G-8 nations and Turkey have united around a common agenda to use the energies and resources of our nations to support the momentum of freedom in the nations of the Middle East and North Africa ... This partnership will seek to advance the universal values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, economic opportunity and social justice." Leaders of seven countries from the region (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey and Yemen) attended the Sea Island Summit and agreed to lead individual initiatives established in the Plan of Support.

The Forum for the Future will provide a collaborative vehicle at ministerial level for expanding G-8 engagement in support of the region's reform efforts, in particular toward the enhancement of democracy and civic participation, rule of law, human rights and open market economy. The discussions will be closely linked with parallel dialogues in which regional civil society and business representatives will regularly present to G-8 and regional governments opportunities to support indigenous democratic, economic, and educational reforms. The open exchange of ideas and wide representation of diverse views will ensure that efforts respond effectively to the concerns of people in the region.

Historic "Partnership for Progress and a Common Future with the Broader Middle East and North Africa"

The preparatory meeting will review progress on the various BMENA initiatives announced at Sea Island.

-- A Forum for the Future that brings together regional and G-8 foreign, economic and other ministers, as well as civil society and business leaders, for an on-going dialogue on reforms to promote democracy, rule of law, human rights, and open market economy reforms.

-- A microfinance initiative with the goal of assisting two million potential entrepreneurs -- especially women -- pull themselves out of poverty over five years through microfinance loans. The initiative, to which the World Bank will render assistance, is co-sponsored by Jordan and Yemen.

-- A literacy initiative, co-sponsored with Algeria and Afghanistan, to enhance support for the region's efforts to

improve literacy skills to an additional 20 million people by 2015.

-- An entrepreneurship initiative co-sponsored by Bahrain and Morocco that supports business, entrepreneurship and vocational training and that provides 250,000 young people, especially women, employment opportunities through hands-on entrepreneurial training.

-- A Democracy Assistance Dialogue, led by Turkey, Yemen and Italy that brings together G-8 and regional governments, and civil society groups to share information and lessons learned on democracy programs in the region.

-- A new Private Enterprise Development Facility at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to improve the region's business and investment climate and increase the financing options for the region's small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

-- A regional "Network of Funds" that would bring together representatives from development institutions based in the region and from international financial institutions to coordinate existing programs.

-- A Task Force on Investment, comprised of private sector business representatives, from the G-8 and the region, would assist and advise the region on reform measures to improve the investment climate, including those under the OECD Investment Initiative. In this way, the region can better prioritize reforms in areas that are truly impediments to business and help support economic diversification and job growth.

ENERGY SECRETARY ABRAHAM URGES GREATER SECURITY FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS

U.S. gives \$3 million to IAEA to implement threat-reduction efforts

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham called on members of the international community to accelerate collaboration to safeguard nuclear materials, so there are fewer opportunities for terrorists to acquire them.

Delivering the keynote address September 18 to the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) Partners Conference in Vienna, Austria, Abraham said more must

be done to improve and enhance nonproliferation work, because terrorists are always coming up with "new ways to do the unthinkable." He said the challenge is to thwart those -- whether rogue nations or shadowy, stateless networks -- from finding ever more treacherous ways to promulgate terror and death.

The two-day GTRI conference, attended by more than 575 representatives from 90 nations, was co-sponsored by the United States and Russia. Abraham reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to prevent the spread of dangerous nuclear materials, provide for their physical security, verify peaceful uses of nuclear energy, advance science, and monitor the transfer of relevant technology.

The secretary highlighted a range of measures taken by the United States to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment, including a new program to help upgrade security for Russian strategic missile sites (two will be secured by the end of 2004 and the other 15 by 2008); accelerated work to secure Russian Navy fuel and nuclear warhead sites (all should be secured by the 2006); and accelerated plans to finish securing Russia's weapons-usable material (43 percent completed).

"We are doing this because we are dedicated to securing dangerous, unsecured materials, and because we are equally dedicated to ensuring the continued peaceful use of nuclear power," he said.

Abraham also announced that the Energy Department would give the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) \$3 million to support GTRI technical cooperation efforts. In addition, he welcomed Australia's recent commitment to provide a similar amount to create a program to secure radioactive sources in the Asia-Pacific region.

"It is clear that each of us shares an obligation to work together to reduce the threat of a nuclear or radiological attack," he told conference participants. Abraham also urged them to create an official, global inventory of existing high-risk materials including material at nuclear enrichment and conversion facilities, reprocessing plants, research reactor sites, fuel fabrications factories and temporary storage areas.

In his closing remarks to the GTRI conference September 19, Abraham reminded IAEA member states that they must be, collectively, "the responsible custodians of these materials and facilities in which they are located."

The full text of those remarks may be viewed on the Internet at http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=16681&BT_CODE=PR_SPEECHES&TT_CODE=PRESS_SPEECH.

Abraham subsequently delivered a message to IAEA from President Bush on September 20 in which he applauded the agency's work on nuclear safeguards and verification measures. The Energy Secretary also singled out Iran for acting contrary to the legally binding obligations of the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to which it is a signatory.

He said Iran has been secretly building sensitive nuclear fuel cycle facilities for weapons purposes for 20 years.

Abraham's prepared remarks to the IAEA's general conference may be viewed on the Internet at http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=16682&BT_CODE=PR_SPEECHES&TT_CODE=PRESS_SPEECH

NEW AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM AN ONGOING TRIBUTE TO NATIVE CULTURES

Washington attraction, opening September 21, emphasizes diversity

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) opening September 21 in the U.S. capital is an "ongoing tribute to native cultures" that emphasizes the diversity of people indigenous to the Western Hemisphere, says W. Richard West, the museum's director.

Speaking to reporters at a September 15 preview of the museum's exhibits, West said the NMAI, which is expected to draw four million visitors a year, is "new in concept, design and execution."

American Indians were consulted throughout the development of the museum, including the building, landscaping, exhibits and public programs, according to the NMAI.

The entire 4.25-acre (1.72-hectare) site presents nature and humans "interwoven as one," says an American Indian man in one of the several films showing throughout the museum. "This is not an ancient fantasy. This is the way it is," says a speaker in another NMAI film. NMAI is the newest museum in the Smithsonian family.

The Minnesota Kasota limestone-covered building resembling a cliff worn by wind and rain is surrounded by a native eco-environment of water, corn [maize] stalks, grasses, trees, shrubs, boulders, and a fire pit and offering area that can be used for ceremonies and demonstrations.

The museum's opening ceremony will feature Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Northern Cheyenne from Colorado, and Senator Daniel Inouye from Hawaii. In the late 1980s Campbell and Inouye introduced the bills in the Senate and House of Representatives that led to the creation of the museum. At the time, Campbell was a member of the House.

They will be joined at the opening by Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo Manrique, Smithsonian Institution Secretary Lawrence Small, and West.

Immediately preceding the museum's opening to the public will be a procession of native peoples, many wearing ceremonial clothing, along Washington's National Mall. Also on the Mall September 21-26 will be a First Americans Festival, featuring American Indian music, dancing, storytelling, demonstrations, crafts and food.

Native peoples have often had a controversial relationship with museums and the way collections were acquired in the past, according to the Smithsonian magazine. "We love them because they have our stuff, but we also hate them because they have our stuff," says West in an interview with the magazine. West is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma.

The survival of native peoples in the Americas is "one of the most extraordinary experiences of human history," says a speaker in one of the films. The museum presents true pictures and stories of native peoples of the Western Hemisphere, which may contrast with stereotypes of American Indians as "savages and barbarians, rarely as human beings," he says.

"We define a moment of reconciliation and recognition in American history, a time for Indian people to assume, finally, a prominent place of honor on our nation's front

lawn,” West writes in an NMAI brochure. Located at the east end of the Mall near the U.S. Capitol, the NMAI faces east, in the direction of the rising sun.

The museum is the only one of its kind in the world to showcase the culture and history of thousands of tribal and indigenous groups and is the most comprehensive museum for, by and about American Indians, according to the NMAI.

The Smithsonian, established in 1846 by money bequeathed by a British scientist, is the world’s largest museum and research complex. It includes 14 museums and the National Zoo in Washington and two museums in New York City.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”